



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/673,567	10/18/2000	Yoshihiko Hibino	001248	8750
7590	11/02/2004			EXAMINER
Armstrong Westerman Hattori McLeland & Naughton 1725 K Street NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20006			SCHWARTZ, PAMELA R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1774	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/673,567	HIBINO ET AL.
	Examiner Pamela R. Schwartz	Art Unit 1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on July 22, 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

1. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification does not enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make the invention when it requires the presence of a "polyvinyl alcohol-cation monomer graft polymer." The only examples of what is meant by the term appear to be references to foreign trade-named materials. No specific example of monomers has been set forth. There is not sufficient evidence of record setting forth the formulation of the polymer relied upon herein. Without information concerning the formulation, applicants' cannot assert that one of ordinary skill in the art will be able to practice the invention from their disclosure, because formulations of trade-named materials can be changed and applicants have not provided any independent opportunity for reformulating or recreating this material so critical to their invention.

Applicant's Declaration has been fully considered but is not persuasive. Applicant's Declaration states that the trade-named material was available for purchase but provides no evidence of its formulation. The company may change the formulation or the company may decide to no longer produce and sell the material. Therefore, evidence of the formulation of the trade-named material at the time of the invention, such as information set forth in sales brochures or product bulletins, including sufficient detail about the materials involved, must be submitted in order to overcome this rejection.

With respect to applicants' remarks of July 22, 2004, the examiner has carefully reviewed the information of record, but considers it insufficient to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make the invention for the reasons set forth above.

2. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koide et al. (5,756,151) in view of Yasuda et al. (4,944,988) and Koji et al. (EP 0745,488) for reasons of record and for reasons given below. "Consisting essentially of" language only excludes materials that materially affect the basic and novel characteristics of the invention. The prior art is directed to ink jet recording materials; therefore, inclusion of additional binder will not affect the basic and novel characteristics of the invention. While the Examiner has suggested limiting the claims to a single binder, use of "consisting essentially of" language does not accomplish this. "Consisting of" language concerning the solution, as well as inclusion of water in the solution, would be entered and would overcome this rejection.

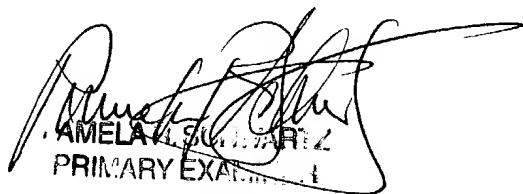
3. Applicant's arguments filed July 22, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth above.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pamela Schwartz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1528.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PRSchwartz
October 30, 2004



AMELIE A. SCHWARTZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER